

surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the envelop surface, the method comprising:

forming a metal-oxide powder into a cylindrical varistor body;
coating envelop surfaces of the varistor body with a paste or a dispersion of a high-resistance material by spraying, dip-painting, rolling, or spray painting; and
sintering the coated varistor body.

a 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein during the sintering the high-resistance material diffuses into the surface zone of the envelop surface of the metal-oxide varistor to a depth of 2-6 mm.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the envelop surface of the formed, non-sintered varistor body is coated with an aqueous dispersion of SiO_2 , LiO_2 or Cr_2O_3 .

8. The method according to claim 5, wherein the coated varistor body is sintered at 1100-1300° C for 2-10 hours.

Remarks:

Claims 5-8 are now pending in this application. Applicants have presented new claims 5-8 and canceled claims 1-4. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.